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**Ways & Means Committee**

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**HB 2348**

**Brief Description:** Regarding surcharges on fee-based activities related to public health.

**Sponsors:** Representative Moeller.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Assesses a \$7 surcharge upon health care providers, an \$8 surcharge on certified copies of birth and death certificates, and a \$10 surcharge on food establishment inspection fees.

**Hearing Date:** 4/14/09

**Staff:** Chris Blake (786-7392)

**Background:**

Health Professions Fees

The Secretary of Health (Secretary) and the various health professions boards and commissions regulate approximately 320,000 health care providers in about 70 health professions. The Secretary is responsible for establishing fees for each of the health professions at the level necessary to defray the costs of administering the program. Fees may be waived by the Secretary when it is determined that it is not in the best interest of public health and safety.

Vital Records Fees

Vital records include records of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, dissolution, annulment, and legal separation. Certified copies of vital records may be obtained through either the Department of Health or a local registrar. There is a \$20 fee, established in statute, for certified copies of vital records. Of the \$20 cost, \$8 of the fee is deposited in the Death Investigations Account.

Food Service Inspection Permits and Inspections

The State Board of Health has adopted health standards for food establishments. The actual regulation of food establishments is conducted by local health jurisdictions. The operation of a

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food establishment without a valid permit issued by a local health jurisdiction constitutes a misdemeanor. Local health jurisdictions must inspect food service establishments at least once during the permit period.

**Summary of Bill:**

Three surcharges are established. First, an annual \$7 surcharge is assessed upon all credentials issued to health care providers. Second, an \$8 surcharge is assessed upon the purchase of certified copies of birth and death certificates from either the Department of Health or a local registrar. Third, \$10 is added to each inspection fee charged to a food establishment. Funds raised by each of the surcharges must be deposited into the Public Health Services Account.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on April 10, 2009.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.